25. Salt. The extent of land under salt manufacture in South Travancore is steadily increasing, the total available area rising from 376·4 acres in 1095 to 473·6 acres in 1098. The monopoly factories at Tamarakulam, Rajakkamangalam and Colachel stood in urgent need of certain important works for the prevention of percolation of fresh water and for the easy conduct of brine from the sea. These works have now been completed by the Public Works Department and it should be possible for the owners of the factories concerned to show better outturn in future. The quantity of salt manufactured in the factories was higher in 1098 than in any previous year, in spite of the damage caused to the pans by the cyclone of Vrischikam in that year.

26. Industries. As stated by me in my Address in previous years, the Department of Industries had, in the first place, to be purged of its unsound and unpractical activities and directed along fruitful channels. This has now been done, and this department, on whose staff a large number of trained experts are borne, is beginning to make its usefulness felt. The Oil Chemist toured throughout the State to gather first hand information in regard to the kind, quality and quantity of oils available, the methods of their production, the conditions of their export and import, the prospects of the local industries utilising them and the advisability of starting fresh ones for their utilisation. He also instructed the people in the several uses to which oils could be put and advised improvements in the processes of their manufacture. With a view to carry on work in the refinement of oils, the manufacture of soap by the boiling process on a semi-factory scale, the evolution of suitable improvements in the cold process now in vogue, and the investigation of the possibilities of candle manufacture, he has recommended the establishment of a workshop with suitable equipment, and the Government have instructed the Chief Engineer to include a shed for his work in the estimate to be submitted for the Central Institute of Technology.

27. More than two lakhs of hides are exported annually from Travancore, and the Leather Expert has pointed out that there is ample scope for converting a large portion of them locally into leather—chiefly half-tans—seeing that there is no dearth of tanning materials and other manufacturing facilities in the country. What is needed is a model factory on a modest scale where improved methods of vegetable and chrome tanning could be successfully demonstrated; and with a view to start such a factory, the buildings in the abandoned agricultural farm at Karamanai are being suitably repaired.

28. A small dye-house and a place for the demonstration of improved methods of, and designs in, weaving and knitting have been provided for the work of the Textile Expert. These will form the nucleus of the Central Institute of Technology referred to in my Address last year, and it is proposed to start the training of pupils in weaving, knitting and dyeing. The Textile Expert is also engaged in inspecting the S. M. R. V. Technical School at Nagercoil and the grant-in-aid weaving schools scattered over the State and in giving advice in textile manufacture and dyeing to those that seek it. He has further to supervise the work of the two Peripatetic Weaving Instructors and to do research work on indigenous dyes. The plans and estimates for the Institute of Technology have already been prepared and a provision of Rs. 15,000 has been made in the current year's budget for the commencement of the work.

29. The Industrial Engineer has investigated the engineering and industrial aspects of the Kallar hydro-electric scheme. He has also collected statistics regarding the production, consumption and cost of power at the different industrial centres in Travancore. He has further made a study of the present methods of pumping in Kuttanad and has been advising the people concerned how the large waste of power which is incidental to those methods may be successfully avoided. He is also the Chief Boiler Inspector and has, in that capacity, done extensive touring and inspection of boilers. His work in regard to the introduction of hand-pumps for lifting water and the formulation of a cheap scheme for electrifying the town of Trivandrum will be found mentioned elsewhere.

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30. The stoneware produced by the Chemical Assistant to the Director of Industries has been found to be high-class in spite of the imperfections of the kiln in which it was burnt, and specimens of this ware, both glazed and unglazed, have been sent to the British Empire Exhibition. The Chemical Assistant is now engaged in research on the manufacture of porcelain from local kaolin.

31. The laboratory annexè in the premises of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, referred to in my Address in previous years, has now been opened and the chemists and other experts attached to the department have begun to utilise it for their research work.

32. The purchase of a power-driven drill for the combined use of this department and the departments of Agriculture and Public Works has been recently sanctioned, and it is expected that, when that instrument arrives, geological work such as the investigation of deep beds of minerals like lignite and petroleum, as well as the tapping of deep springs for the purpose of lift-irrigation, would be greatly facilitated.

33. Technical Education. Coming to technical education, it has to be observed with regret that the efforts of the Government in starting technical schools have not met with sufficient popular response and that there has been a marked reduction in the strength of the Overseers' Class in the Sri Mulam Technical School in Trivandrum since the first batch of students passed out of that school. This is reported to be directly due to the inability of the Government to readily employ the successful candidates; and if so, it is much to be deplored. The response to the efforts of the Government to promote such education would, it is feared, be neither spontaneous nor sufficient, so long as the belief, which is impossible of fulfilment, remains that the Government are bound to provide employment for all that pass out of these schools. Besides the departmental technical schools, there are as many as 40 grant-in-aid and 50 unaided industrial and technical schools working in the State; and with a view to direct their development along sound lines, a draft technical educational code, the salient features of which were explained in my Address last year, has been framed and published in the Gazette for criticism. The code will be issued in its final form in time to admit of its provisions taking effect from the commencement of the next year.

The rules for the grant of small loans for the encouragement of cottage and other industries have been finally passed and the Director of Industries should be able to fully distribute the allotment of Rs. 20,000 sanctioned on this account in the current year's budget.

34. British Empire Exhibition. In pursuance of the decision of Travancore to participate in the British Empire Exhibition, the preliminary exhibition, referred to in my last year's Address, was held in these very premises about four months ago. This exhibition, which served to focus the natural, agricultural and industrial resources of this country and the artistic skill of its citizens, was, in the opinion of the Indian Commissioner of the Exhibition, exceedingly promising; and some of the exhibits, such as the products of the cocoanut tree and the articles manufactured therefrom, the planting products, the foods prepared from local tubers and fruits, the essential and other oils, the timber and other forest produce, and the skilled lace, ivory, wood and metal work, were deemed capable of compelling the attention of the industrial world. The Exhibition Committee, with the kind and hearty co-operation of the Agent to the Governor-General, who is a connoisseur of art and an ex-Director of Industries, selected the necessary exhibits for transmission to London, and Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai, the Convener of the Committee, who has been placed in charge of the Travancore Court at the exhibition, has already left for London.

35. Kallar Scheme. The material papers connected with the Kallar hydro-electric scheme have already been published, and it is for you to say how far the Government have striven to safeguard the interests of Travancore in regard to this important scheme. The Madras Government took up a position which, in the opinion of this Government, was the result of a misunderstanding in regard to certain indisputable facts. The attention of that Government has been invited to those facts and further negotiations are in progress.

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